MARVEL

#2

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VENOMVERSE

MARVEL INHUMANS
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delgado

WHEN SPIDER-MAN DISCREDITED ONE OF HIS STORIES, REPORTER EDDIE BROCK LOST EVERYTHING – EXCEPT A BURNING HATRED FOR THE WALLCRAWLER. AFTER BONDING WITH A SENTIENT AND AGGRESSIVE ALIEN THAT SHARED A SIMILAR DISDAIN OF SPIDER-MAN, THE TWO BECAME THE WICKED WEB-SLINGER CALLED VENOM

VENOMVERSE

DURING A BATTLE WITH A SUPER VILLAIN, VENOM WAS TELEPORTED TO A DISTANT WORLD WHERE HE FOUND HIMSELF FACE-TO-FACE WITH NONE OTHER THAN A VERSION OF ***CAPTAIN AMERICA*** *WHO HAD BONDED WITH A VENOM SYMBIOTE!*

EDDIE LEARNED THAT HE'D BEEN DRAFTED INTO A BATTLE AGAINST A MYSTERIOUS SPECIES CALLED ***POISONS*** *THAT HUNTS SYMBIOTIC SUPER HEROES AND STEALS THEIR POWERS WITH THE AID OF DOCTOR STRANGE, CAPTAIN AMERICA HAS FORMED A SMALL RESISTANCE.*

AFTER A BRUTAL POISON ATTACK, CAP HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO SACRIFICE HIMSELF TO SAVE HIS ALLIES. EDDIE AND A VENOMOUS SPIDER-MAN WERE ABLE TO MAKE A BREAK FOR IT, BUT SPIDER-MAN FELL PREY TO THE POISONS AND VENOM FOUND HIMSELF AGAINST A NEW AND ***DEADLY*** *VERSION OF HIS OLDEST FOE...*

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I BET THIS FEELS LIKE *OLD TIMES* TO YOU, HUH, EDDIE?

BET IT GETS YA TWISTED UP, RIGHT IN YOUR *NOSTALGIC BITS.*

SPIDER-MAN VERSUS *VENOM--*

--JUST LIKE THE *GOOD OLD DAYS!*

BUT THE GOOD OLD DAYS ARE *LONG GONE!*

AND *I'M* NOT *SPIDER-MAN!*

COULD'VE FOOLED ME.

HE NEVER SHUTS UP, EITHER.

HNH.

WHAT?

YOU NEED YOUR LITTLE FRIENDS FOR BACKUP?

AFRAID TO TANGLE WITH ME BY YOURSELF?

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU'RE FOOLING?

BUDDY, YOU COULDN'T TAKE DOWN SPIDER-MAN ON YOUR BEST DAY!

YOU NEVER MANAGED TO BEAT HIM!

SO HOW ARE YOU GONNA BEAT ME?

I'M SO MUCH MORE THAN SPIDER-MAN EVER WAS.

MORE THAN VENOM...

...EVER WAS!

SLAM!

COME ON, EDUARDO!

WHERE'S THE TOUGH GUY TALK?

PUFF OUT YOUR CHEST AND SHOW ME WHAT A BRUISER YOU ARE!

YOUR TENDRILS MIGHT'VE WORKED BEFORE, BUT MY SKIN IS A LITTLE THICKER NOW!

KRNCH! SMACK! KRAK!

SPIDER-MAN ALWAYS WANTED TO KILL YOU. DID YOU KNOW THAT, EDDIE?

HNN... HNN...

HE WANTED YOU DEAD, BUT HE DIDN'T HAVE THE GUTS.

NOW HE FINALLY GETS THE CHANCE--

GRK!

--THANKS TO ME!

WHO'S HUNGRY?

OH, LOOK! PARTY CRASHERS!

BRAKKA

BRAKKA-BRAK-BR-BRAKKA!

PARDON ME, BUT YOU HAVEN'T SEEN A SYMBIOTE-CLAD *MEATHEAD* WITH A PENCHANT FOR GETTING CHOKED OUT BY *BODY-SNATCHING JERKS*, HAVE YOU?

HE'S DONE RUN AWAY FROM THE FARM AND WE'VE BEEN MISSING HIM SOMETHING *FIERCE*.

WOULD YOU LOOK AT THAT! WHO NEEDS FRIENDS TO FIGHT THEIR BATTLES FOR THEM NOW, EDDIE?

WELL, BRING 'EM ON!

ONE AT A TIME OR ALL AT ONCE, MAKES NO DIFFERENCE TO ME.

SOONER OR LATER...

"...YOU'VE ALL GOTTA *FEED THE BEAST.*"

ON YOUR... FEET, S-SOLDIER.

THIS ISN'T HOW YOU'RE GOING OUT.

YOU'RE NOT DYING IN--

EEEE

SH-SHARON?

HOW DID YOU FIND ME?

YOU CAME FOR ME?

THAT'S RIGHT, STEVE.

I CAN'T STAND SEEING YOU THIS WAY.

I'M HERE TO **HELP** YOU.

SHARON-- YOU CAN'T BE HERE.

IF THEY FIND YOU...

I WON'T LET YOU **SACRIFICE YOURSELF** FOR ME.

STOW THAT ATTITUDE, SOLDIER.

REMEMBER WHAT YOU USED TO TELL THE REGULARS IN YOUR COMMAND?

"I WON'T ASK YOU TO DO SOMETHING I WOULDN'T DO MYSELF."

SO DON'T ASK ME TO **ABANDON** YOU...

...BECAUSE I **KNOW** YOU'D NEVER ABANDON **ME**.

WE'RE GOING TO GET THROUGH THIS--

"--TOGETHER."

WHAT A WASTE!

SO MUCH POTENTIAL... SQUANDERED ON SUB-PRIME HOSTS!

TIME TO TRADE UP, VENOMS!

BRAKKA

BRAKKA

BRAKKA

I'D LIKE TO SAY THAT IF YOU JUST GIVE UP, I'LL STOP SHOOTING YOU.

BUT WE BOTH KNOW THAT'S NOT TRUE.

I'M AN ALTRUIST, AFTER ALL. I NEED TO FIND A HAPPY HOME FOR ALL THESE BULLETS.

KEEP TALKING WHILE I KILL YOUR FRIENDS.

AAAH--

G-GO AHEAD, TIGER.

KILL ME. GET IT OVER WITH.

M-MJ... I...

HEY, SPIDER! STOP WASTING YOUR TIME WITH MINNOWS!

THERE'S STILL SHARKS IN THESE WATERS!

THAT'S IT! DON'T LET UP FOR A SECOND!

YEAAAH--

YOU VENOMS ARE PITIFUL! EVEN SPIDER-MAN KNEW HE WAS AN UNDESERVING HOST.

HE WAS NEVER WORTHY!

BUT NOW WE'RE HERE-- THE PERFECT HOSTS!

AND ALL WE WANT IS TO MAKE YOU ALL SO MUCH STRONGER!

NNNH!

HE... HESITATED.

YOU WEREN'T MY SPIDER, BUT YOU WERE CLOSE.

YOU REMINDED ME OF HIM.

I'M SORRY, TIGER.

SORRY WE COULDN'T *SAVE* YOU.

AWWW, THAT'S *SWEET*.

BUT I DON'T *NEED* SAVING!

THAT'S *YOUR* SHTICK!

A WORLD-FAMOUS ACTRESS, AND THE ROLE YOU PLAYED BEST WAS--

--THE DAMSEL IN DISTRESS!

BRAKKA-BRAK-BRAK-BRAKKA!

Y'KNOW... WITHOUT ANY OF MY *LITTLE PALS* HERE TO *CONVERT* YOU, THIS FIGHT HAS LOST ITS *APPEAL*.

THWIP

YOU ALL RIGHT, BROCK?

I'M FINE, LOGAN.

FOR NOW.

THIS...IT WAS JUST A *DUST-UP*.

SEE YA *AROUND*, EDDIE.

CATCH YA *NEXT TIME!*

"ASK ME HOW I'M DOING ONCE THE *REAL* FIGHT'S OVER."

ONE KISS... AND WE CAN BE TOGETHER *FOREVER.*

N-NO!

YOU'RE NOT SHARON.

YOU'RE A *LIE*...A *TRICK*...

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SO *STUBBORN,* STEVE.

I WAS ONLY TRYING TO MAKE THIS *EASIER* ON YOU...

...TO MAKE IT AS *PAINLESS* AS POSSIBLE.

DO YOUR *WORST.*

NNNN--

REEEEEEAAARGH!

"CAP'S *DEAD.*"

IF HE'S NOT, HE SOON WILL BE...OR WISHING HE WAS.

THAT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE THE CAPTAIN AMERICA I KNOW. BESIDES, WE DON'T KNOW THAT HE'S DONE FOR SURE.

WE KNOW. WE WOULD HAVE SENSED IT IF HE HAD ESCAPED.

THEY TOOK HIM...AND THAT MEANS HE'S GONE, JUST LIKE PE--

LIKE SPIDER-MAN.

THE SAME THING'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO THE REST OF US...

...AS SOON AS THEY TRACK US DOWN.

IT IS GOOD THAT YOU HAVE SURVIVED.

BUT... SPIDER-MAN... WHERE--

HE'S... NOT WITH US ANYMORE, PANTHER

AW... DAMN.

THAT'S THREE DOWN IN THE LAST COUPLE OF HOURS.

CAPTAIN AMERICA... SPIDER-MAN...

...AND AGENT VENOM, KILLED TRYING TO COVER THE REST OF US.

MANIA IS CORRECT. OUR NUMBERS ARE DWINDLING QUICKLY...

WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO STAY HERE LONG.

IF CAPTAIN AMERICA HAS BEEN COMPROMISED, HE'LL LEAD THEM RIGHT TO US.

I AM GROWING STRONGER, BUT I WILL NOT BE ABLE TO DEFEND US FROM AN ONSLAUGHT.

I KNOW A PLACE WE CAN GO.

CAP AND ME, WE WORKED OUT A SYSTEM.

WE BOTH PICKED OUT A FEW ***SAFE HOUSES...*** WITHOUT THE OTHER KNOWING...

...JUST *IN CASE.*

ALL RIGHT, PEOPLE. WE'RE ON THE MOVE.

GATHER WHAT YOU NEED AND BE READY TO BUG OUT IN FIVE MINUTES.

STRANGE, BEFORE WE WERE AMBUSHED...

...BEFORE HE WAS *TAKEN...*

...SPIDER-MAN WAS TRYING TO EXPLAIN WHAT'S HAPPENING.

FILL HIM IN, DOC.

HE'S IN THE THICK OF THINGS NOW.

HE ***DESERVES*** TO KNOW.

IN TRUTH, WE UNDERSTAND VERY LITTLE ABOUT THE POISONS.

THEY ARE NOT UNLIKE A ***VIRUS...***

...ONE THAT SEEMS TO BE DEIGNED FOR OUR ***ERADICATION.***

TAKE ONLY WHAT YOU NEED, PEOPLE!

FORGET ABOUT FOOD AND MEDS! STICK WITH FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES!

IN THEIR NATURAL FORMS, THE POISONS ARE SMALL AND FRAGILE.

THROUGH SOME GENETIC TRICK, PERHAPS MERELY EVOLUTION ITSELF, THEY ARE THE ***PERFECT HOSTS*** FOR THE SYMBIOTES, OUR ***OTHERS***.

WHEN TAKEN BY ONE, THE SYMBIOTES BECOME MUCH MORE POWERFUL.

BUT WHAT ABOUT THE ***HOSTS?*** WHAT ABOUT ***US?***

OH, THEY FIND USE FOR THE HOST, AS WELL.

FOR THEM, THE BONDING PROCESS REQUIRES RAW...***NUTRIENTS*** TO WORK.

THE HOST IS CONSUMED AS A FUEL WHEN THEY TAKE CONTROL OF THE SYMBIOTE.

WHAT THE WEIRDO SUPREME IS SAYING IS THAT WE'RE ***SCREWED.***

EVERY TIME WE RUN INTO ONE OF THESE ***POISONS***, OUR NUMBERS DROP AND THEIRS GROW.

IT ***SHOCKS*** ME THAT NOBODY'S REALIZED THAT WE DON'T STAND A ***CHANCE!***

WE'RE NOT ***DEAD*** YET, WADE.

YEAH?

TELL THAT TO HULK. TO SPIDEY. TO CAP.

YOU WANT TO ***LEAD*** US TO THE ***SLAUGHTER***, BE MY GUEST.

BUT FACE IT, ***OLD MAN VENOM***...YOU CAN ***BARK ORDERS*** ALL YOU WANT...

"...BUT THAT DOESN'T MAKE YOU *CAPTAIN AMERICA!*"

ANOTHER SYMBIOTE HAS BEEN *CLAIMED.*

ANOTHER *WEAPON* TAKEN.

ANOTHER *WARRIOR* BORN!

THE SPAWNING HAS YIELDED FRUIT ONCE MORE.

TELL ME, CAPTAIN--

--HOW DO YOU *FEEL?*

BETTER THAN EVER, SIR!

READY TO SERVE MY COUNTRY.

NO. NOT COUNTRY.

THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.

IT WILL BE ALL RIGHT.

IT TAKES A WHILE TO FULLY ABSORB THE CONSCIOUSNESS.

GIVE YOURSELF TIME TO ADJUST.

THIS IS A GREAT DAY FOR YOU.

FOR ALL OF US.

CAPTAIN AMERICA WAS ONE OF THEIR *LEADERS*.

I CAN TELL YOU EVERYTHING.

I CAN RUN DOWN THEIR FORCES...TARGET THEIR HIDING PLACES...

AND WHAT ABOUT *THE SOURCE?*

I CAN TELL YOU WHERE TO *FIND* HIM.

I CAN HELP YOU *CAPTURE* HIM.

AND THEN WE CAN *BREAK* HIM.

EXCELLENT.

WE WILL TAKE THEM ALL.

SO IT IS WRITTEN IN THE *GOSPEL OF THE SPAWNING.*

AND WHEN WE HAVE HUNTED THEM ALL...

...WHEN WE HAVE CONSUMED THEM TO THEIR LAST...

...WE WILL USE THE *MAGICIAN* TO BRING US *MORE!*

"THIS ISN'T HOW YOU WIN A WAR."

"HELL...THIS ISN'T EVEN *SURVIVAL.*

"THIS IS JUST *HIDE-AND-SEEK.*"

AT SOME POINT, WE'VE GOTTA TAKE THE FIGHT TO THE POISONS.

YOU SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT. YOU'RE THE *WOLVERINE*--

THAT'S RIGHT!

FIRST, WE GOTTA FIND WHERE THE POISONS ARE HIDING.

THEN I'LL USE *THIS* BABY TO TEACH 'EM A THING OR TWO.

THEY TOOK ALL THE OTHER GUARDIANS.

I'M THE LAST ONE.

BUT I'M GONNA GET SOME *PAYBACK.*

DON'T CALL ME THAT.

I DON'T DISAGREE WITH YOU.

BUT THERE'S MORE TO THIS FIGHT THAN SMOKING GUNS AND BLEEDING KNUCKLES.

HEY...I KNOW WHERE WE ARE.

OUR LADY OF SAINTS.

THIS IS WHERE MY OTHER AND I BECAME JOINED.

WHERE WE BECAME ONE.

SHOULD GIVE US TIME TO REGROUP...

...FIGURE OUT OUR NEXT MOVE...

...AND HOW WE CAN WIN THIS WAR.

I DON'T EVEN LIKE SUGGESTING THIS IN A CHURCH, BUT IF WE'RE GOING TO STOP THE POISONS...

...WE NEED SOME SORT OF DOOMSDAY WEAPON.

WHAT D'YA THINK I'M WORKING ON OVER HERE, TOOTS?

IF YOU GUYS WOULD STOP FORCING ME TO USE THESE BOMBS TO SAVE YOUR SORRY CANS, WE'D HAVE ONE HELLUVA PAYLOAD!

DOOMSDAY, HUH?

I DUNNO... I MIGHT HAVE AN IDEA ABOUT THAT.

BUT EVEN I DON'T LIKE HOW CRAZY IT IS.

SPEAKING OF CRAZY...

"...WHERE'S DEADPOOL?"

HELLLLLOOOOOOOOOO?

HELLLLOOOOOO?

IS THERE ANYBODY OUT THERE?

ANY *POISONS* OUT THERE LOOKING FOR A *TASTY* SNACK?

ANYBODY *BUYING* WHAT I'M *SELLING*?

HOLLA AT YA BOY!

YOOOO-HOOOOO!

THERE YOU ARE!

DON'T BE SHY! STEP RIGHT UP!

YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY.

IF YOU CAN'T *BEAT* 'EM...

...SURRENDER *PEACEFULLY* TO 'EM...

...AND HOPE THE *INITIATION* ISN'T HALF AS *PAINFUL* AS YOU *THINK!*

TO BE CONTINUED...

WELL VERSED

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OH, NO! What's dear ol' Deadpool gone and gotten himself into this time? I don't know about you, True Believers, but I don't think he's going to survive this ordeal! Only way to know for sure is to come back next week and read VENOMVERSE 3!

While you're waiting, though, check out these letters we've gotten from fans across the Venomverse letting us know their thoughts about the wicked web-slinger!

Dear Venom Team,

What could we have possibly done to be blessed with this series? And whose idea were the talking dinosaurs?

First off, I'm a huge fan and longtime reader of SPIDER-MAN since I was a child. I was actually introduced to Venom from reading my dad's old Spider-Man comics from the '90s. Ever since, Venom has become my favorite anti-hero of Marvel!

But after GUARDIANS and SPACE KNIGHT, I wasn't sure where VENOM would go next. Even after arriving back on Earth and spending some time with Lee Price I continued to be skeptical of the new series. That is, until he was finally reunited again with the OG VENOM, Eddie Brock! I've been waiting for this reunion for way too long!

What I'm trying to say is, I couldn't be any happier with the way Venom is being portrayed in this comic! The idea that Venom is not only a savage killing machine but cares for innocents is extremely intriguing and reminds me a lot of the good old days.

Speaking of the good old days, I love the recent change back to the original numbering! My thanks go to everyone on the team that helps make this comic, for doing right by one of my favorite characters of all time! Let's make sure this series never gets canceled!

Anthony B.

Let's hope, Anthony! The surest way to keep the Venom flowing is to snag the issues of his series every month at your local comic ship – heck, pick up a copy for your friends! And your family! They're great for holidays, graduations and other special occasions, too!

Dear SymbiWrote,

As a lifelong Venom fan, I'm really glad that Eddie and the symbiote are finally back together. Even more so now that Venom is finally getting his own major comic event in VENOMVERSE — which I can't wait to read!

EDGE OF VENOMVERSE has been a fun ride, seeing different Marvel heroes being bonded with the symbiote and having a taste of its aggressive nature, which I find very interesting.

As it stands, Mania is one of my favorite characters ever and I hope we get to see her in VENOMVERSE as well in other upcoming Venom stories.

Carlos S.
Venomaniac from
Toronto, Canada

Hey, Carlos! And thanks for your letter! You're darn tootin' that we've got Mania in VENOMVERSE! Hope you dug seeing her in this very issue as much as we did. And keep your eyes peeled in forthcoming issues of VENOM. We've got BIG, CRAZY plans for Mania. I guarantee you won't see them coming!

That's all the space we've got for this one, folks! Be back in one week to see if Deadpool survived his run-in with the Poisons! Here's a peek at our next cover to give you a hint...

Stay sharp!
-Devin

ZONE